Otherness workshop

Western European Colonial dialectics Dissecting the past, contemporary analysis and... a different future?

Ladies and gentleman here you have a terrorist.

Otherness workshop

Departing from a video editing of a video documentation of a performance, the description that Ranciére gives of relational art. The redistribution of bodies, images, spaces and times. The two main modus of Aesthetics according to Ranciére: the sublime and the relational and the concept of absolute other in his philosophical discourse. Speech versus discourse, a discussion on the true role of politics, and the possible role of art as political action.

Dialogue on the characteristics of a video installation, in which the video footage includes material from archive propaganda and testimonies of witnesses of the Portuguese Colonial armed conflict in the 60's and 70's. Discussion and content-based analysis of the video footage: how does the video editing construction relate to the specificity of the conflict? Which are the perceptions that the video material is giving in relation to the ethnic character of the conflict?

Analysis of the contemporary Western European culture in relation to the concept of otherness. Are there examples of cultural residues of Colonial dialectics in Western European Cultures? Is there a connection to be made between the concept of otherness and the contemporary geo-political situation in some Western European countries? Open discussion on the need (or lack of it) to change the current approach.

The fundamental Cultural shift necessary in order to produce change and the instruments needed in order to implement change. What do we need in order to provoke and implement change? Departing from another video a debate will follow on the true nature of power in contemporary societies. Possible interpretation of the physical aspects of the installation; what does it propose? How do the material aspects of the installation try to interact with the viewers and how does that try to influence the perception of the work by the viewer?

Literature:

"Aesthetics and its discontents" ("Aesthetics as politics") Jacques Ranciére Polity Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7456-4630-5 "Empire" (2.3 The Dialectics of Colonial Sovereignty), Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri. First Harvard University Press, 2001. ISBN 0-674-25121-0.

